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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-10

ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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CONFIDENTIAL USUN 586

DISTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UN UR CH

SUBJ: REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (ROB)

REF: USUN 5694

- 1. THE RECENT INTEREST IN THE FORMATION OF THE ROB EXPERTS GROUP HAS SOMEWHAT OBSCURED DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE OTHER ROB BODY.
- 2. THE WEO GROUP WILL NOTIFY GA PRESIDENT BENITES THAT IT HAS NO CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRIVUTION OF FUNDS RELEASED AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS. THE COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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ROB RESOLUTION OF DEC 1973 AND WAS TO HAVE INCLUDED TWO

WEO COUNTRIES APART FROM THE UK AND FRANCE. WITHIN THE WEO GROUP ONLY MALTA EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MEMBERSHIP BUT IT MADE ITS CANDIDACY CONTINGENT ON ALL FIVE PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TAKING THEIR PLACES ON THE COMMITTEE. BOTH THE UK AND FRENCH REPS AT A WEO GROUP MEETING FEB. 21 SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE, AND THE FACT THAT THE US AND CHINA ALSO DO NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IS WELL-KNOWN.

- 3. ALL OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS FILLED THEIR QUOTAS ON THE COMMITTEE, WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: BARBADOS, BRAZIL, CHILE, GDR, POLAND, INDIA, LAOS, SYRIA, ETHIOPIA, MALI, AND NIGERIA.
- 4. A SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL TOLD US BENITES WILL TAKE UP THIS QUESTION AMONG OTHERS AT A MEETING OF REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRMEN FEB. 22, AND HE IS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT WEO LACK OF INTEREST. HE COULD CONSTITUTE THE COMMITTEE WITHOUT THE WEO'S BUT IS RELUCTANT TO DO SO.
- 5. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THIS COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO DISTRIBUTE NON-EXISTENT FUNDS (UNLESS THE SOVIETS WUNEXPECTEDLY DECIDE TO MAKE A UNILATERAL OFFERING) IS REGARDED WIDELY IN THE UN AS A SICK JOKE, BUT AMONG MOST THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS NO HARM WAS PERCEIVED IN JOINING IT ANY MORE THAN IN VOTING OFR THE RES THAT CREATED IT.

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